and to take steps for a systematic interaction amongst the users and the Research and Development institutions concerned with the activities of the Ministry.

(ii) To advise on policies and programmes to develop indigenous capabilities in scientific and technological research.

(iii) To evolve short-term and long-term objectives and plans for upgradation of technology in areas related to the business of the Ministry.

(iv) To advise on measures for technology absorption, adaptation and improvement in a planned manner.

(v) To advise on technological inputs which would improve productivity, quality and reliability of products or services and reduce costs, in areas relevant to the Ministry.

(vi) To recommend, where possible, specific support for scientific research and technology development to institutions or to investigators.

(vii) To examine any other matter related to science and technology which may be referred to the Committee by the Government for advice.

Gap in demand and supply of power

3852. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is 30,000 MW gap in demand and supply of power in the country;

(b) whether the projection of 50,000 MW power is likely to be achieved during Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) what extra precautions Government are taking to see that Ninth Five Year Plan projections are realised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) During July, 1996, against a requirement of 59932 MW, the availability was 48004 MW, resulting in a peak power shortage of 11928 MW.

(b) and (c) The capacity addition programme for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) of the entire country is yet to be finalised. The Government is taking all necessary steps to ensure that slippages in capacity addition do not arise which include, inter alia, streamlining and simplification of project clearance procedures etc.

Cumulative losses of State Electricity Boards

3853. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the cumulative losses of State Electricity Boards at end of March, 1996;

(b) the Board factors responsible for these losses; and

(c) the steps taken to make the SEBs, commercially viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI): (a) In terms of the provision of Sub-Section 4 of Section 69 of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948, the accounts of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs) are required to be forwarded to the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) within six months of the close of the year to which the accounts relate. As such, the accounts for the year 1995-96 are not available. However, the cumulative losses of the SEBs at the end of March, 1995 were Rs. 873.34 crores after taking into account RE subsidy as provided in the accounts.

(b) The reasons for the losses of the SEBs inter-alia include unremunerative tariff including the agricultural tariff, non-conversion of loans into equity, high T&D losses, low level of Plant Load Factor (PLF), High fuel consumption in Thermal Power Stations (TPSs), etc.

(c) In order to make the SEBs commercially viable, State Governments/ SEBs have been advised, from time to time, to undertake measures such as rationalisation of tariff, regular payment of rural electrification subsidy, improvement in Plant Load Factor (PLF), reduction in transmission and distribution losses, installation of Tamper Proof Meters, disconnection of illegal connections etc.

Enquiries against Secretary level officers

3854. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had referred a number of cases for enquiries against Secretary level officers to the Chief Vigilance Commissioner in 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) if so, the number and details of such enquiries during the last two years;

(c) the details of such officers presently occupying the post of Secretary in Government of India;

(d) whether it is a fact that such enquiries are being delayed; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (e) This Ministry have not referred any case for enquiries against Secretary level officers to the Central Vigilance Commission in 1994-95 and 1995-96.

Effect of Supreme Court Judgement Regarding Punishment of Fine on Entry/ Retention in Government Service

3855. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to the recent judgement of the Supreme Court wherein the court had requested the Parliament that provision need be made that punishment of fine upto a certain limit, say upto Rs. 2,000 or so, on a summary or ordinary conviction, shall not be treated as a conviction at all for any purpose, and all the more for entry into and retention in Government service;

(b) if so, the action taken on the judgement so far; and

(c) the number of judgements pending for the last three years with Government in which Government have been directed to enact various laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) and (b) Government has seen judgement of the Supreme Court in Pawan Kumar vs. State of Haryana and Anr. (JT 1996 (5) S.C. 155). A person convicted of an offence involving moral turpitude is generally regarded as ineligible for Government service. However, in such cases where it is felt that there are redeeming features and reasons to believe that such a person has cured himself of the weakness, the Government may clear such a person for appointment. In the case of serving Government servants, such employees on conviction in Court cases are liable for departmental action. However, such action is to be taken not on account of conviction itself but in consideration of the conduct which has led to his conviction, the gravity of the misconduct committed by him, the impact which his misconduct is likely to have on the